



TIME MASTERS

VANISHING POINT

1

FIRST
ISSUE
OF SIX
SEP '10

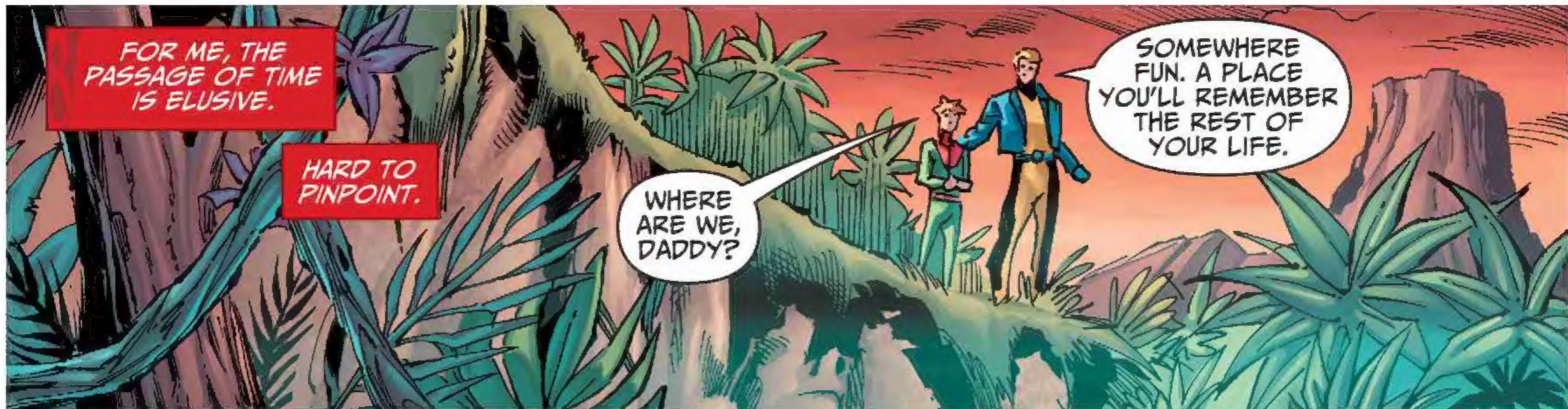


THE
SEARCH
FOR
BATMAN
BEGINS!

DAN
JURGENS
NORM
RAPMUND

DCCOMICS.COM

JURGENS
RAPMUND*



FOR ME, THE
PASSAGE OF TIME
IS ELUSIVE.

HARD TO
PINPOINT.

WHERE
ARE WE,
DADDY?

SOMEWHERE
FUN. A PLACE
YOU'LL REMEMBER
THE REST OF
YOUR LIFE.



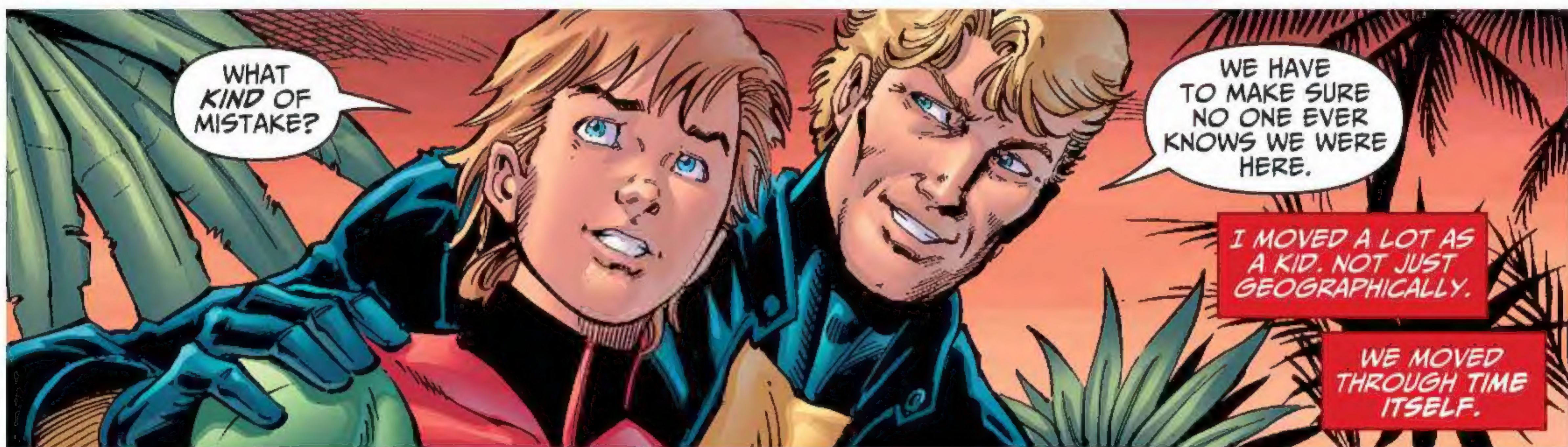
ASK ANYONE
WHO MOVED A
LOT AS A KID.

THEY MIGHT
REMEMBER THEIR
BIRTHDAYS, BUT
NOT WHERE THEY
CELEBRATED THEM.

MAMA SAYS
TO BE SURE
NOT TO TOUCH
ANYTHING.

WELL,
WHAT SHE
REALLY MEANS IS
THAT WE HAVE TO
BE SURE WE DON'T
LEAVE ANYTHING
BEHIND.

NO
MISTAKES.



WHAT
KIND OF
MISTAKE?

WE HAVE
TO MAKE SURE
NO ONE EVER
KNOWS WE WERE
HERE.

I MOVED A LOT AS
A KID. NOT JUST
GEOGRAPHICALLY.

WE MOVED
THROUGH TIME
ITSELF.

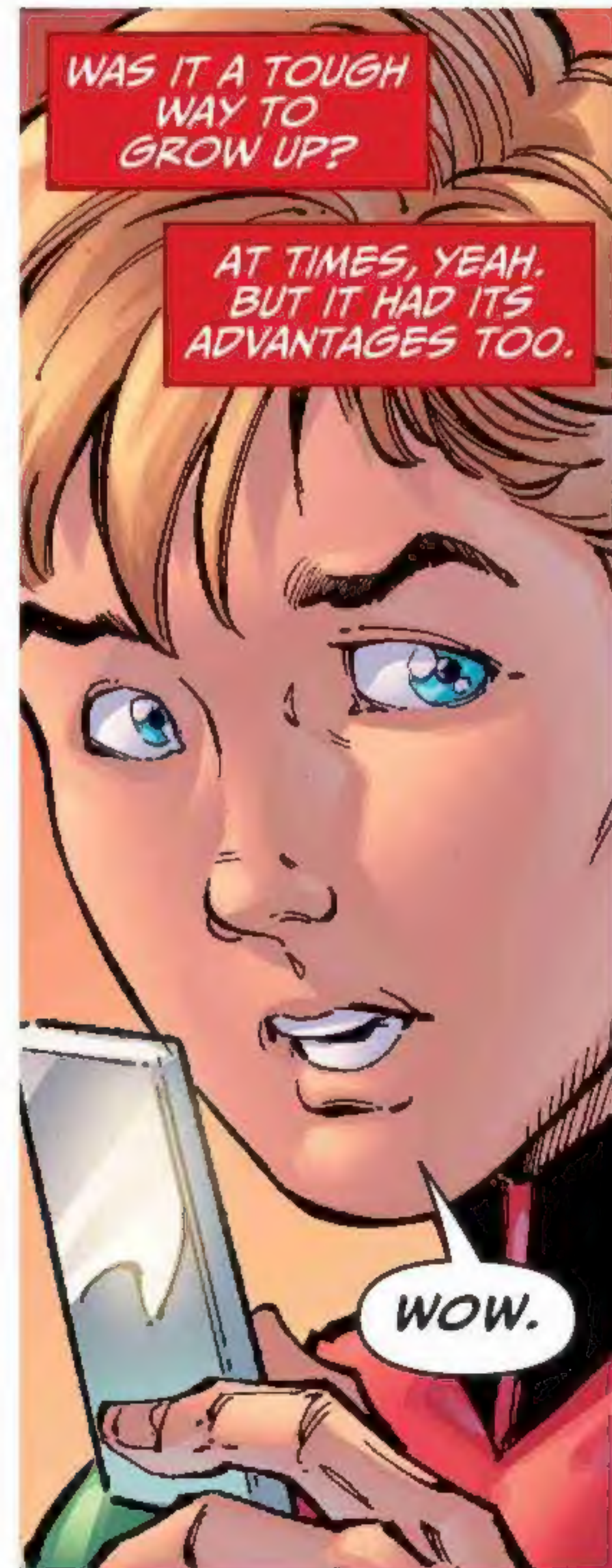


HUMANS
DON'T
BELONG
IN THIS
ERA.



IT'S ON
ITS WAY, SIR.
I MUST ADMIT
THAT I DO NOT
ENJOY BEING A
DECOY.

LIGHTEN
UP, SKEETS.
GET YOUR CAMERA
READY, SON.



WAS IT A TOUGH
WAY TO
GROW UP?

AT TIMES, YEAH.
BUT IT HAD ITS
ADVANTAGES TOO.

WOW.



QUICK--
TAKE YOUR
PICTURE.

HE'S
SO MUCH
BIGGER THAN I
EXPECTED!

AND
STINKY!

THE
RESULT OF
DIGESTING A
FRESH KILL, I
BELIEVE.

YUCK!

NO ONE COULD
KNOW WHERE--
OR WHEN--WE
ACTUALLY LIVED.



HE
SEEMS
READY TO
STRIKE,
SIR.

NO
DOUBT.

READY
TO GO?

DO
WE HAFTA,
DADDY? I
WANNA SEE
MORE!

I PLANNED
TO STAY LONGER,
BUT TIME TRAVEL
RARELY GOES
AS PLANNED.



THE HUMAN,
OR IN THIS CASE,
ANIMAL FACTOR--IS
UNPREDICTABLE.

MY FATHER TAUGHT
ME THOSE
LESSONS WELL.

ONE MISCALCULATION,
ONE CRUCIAL ERROR,
AND HISTORY COULD BE
CHANGED FOREVER.

THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE
TO BE ABLE TO STEP
INTO THE PAST WITHOUT
LEAVING A LASTING
FOOTPRINT.

WITH
DISASTROUS
RESULTS.

WHY YOU HAVE TO
UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN WHAT YOU WANT
TO HAPPEN--

--AND WHAT
MUST HAPPEN.

THAT'S WHAT
BEING A TIME
MASTER IS
ALL ABOUT.

THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHAT I AM.

RIP HUNTER.
TIME MASTER.

PASSAGEWAY

DAN JURGENS story and art NORM RAPMUND finished art
TRAVIS LANHAM letters HI-FI DESIGNS colors
JURGENS & RAPMUND cover art CHRIS SPROUSE & KARL STORV variant cover
RACHEL GLUCKSTERN associate editor MIKE CARLIN editor



WHAT STRANGE MANNER OF DRESS IS THIS?

HE MAY HAVE FOOD IN THOSE POUCHES! GET HIM!

THEIR REACTION IS UNDERSTANDABLE. MY FAULT FOR LETTING THEM SEE ME.



A MISTAKE I DON'T NORMALLY MAKE.

IT'S WHY I DON'T USE A WEAPON.

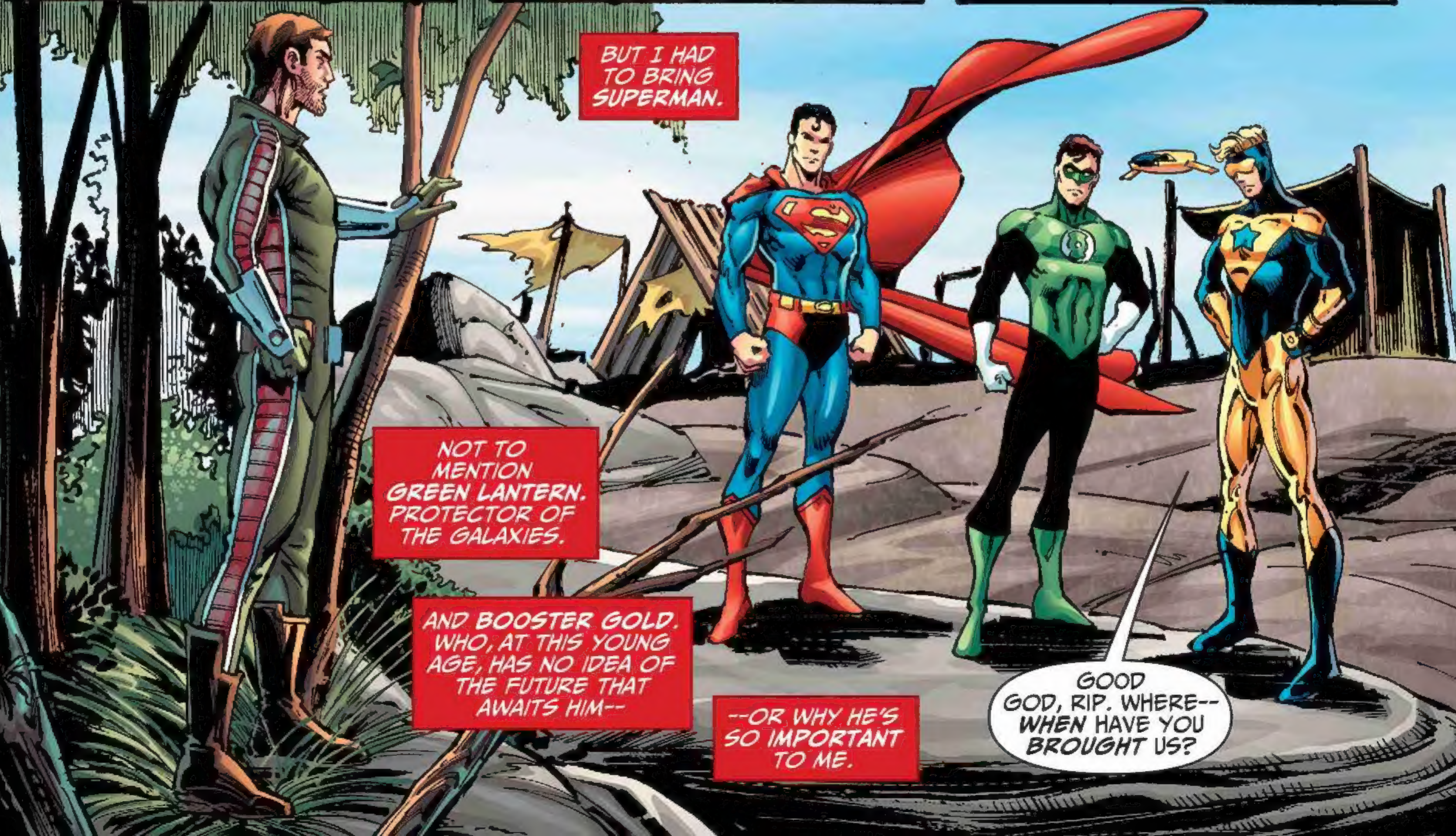


BETTER TO LIMIT THEIR CAMPFIRE STORY TO THAT OF A MAN IN ODD GARB THAN ONE WITH A GUN THAT SHOOTS FIRE.



NOT THAT THEY HAVE LONG TO LIVE ANYWAY.

I SHOULD BE ON THIS MISSION ALONE.



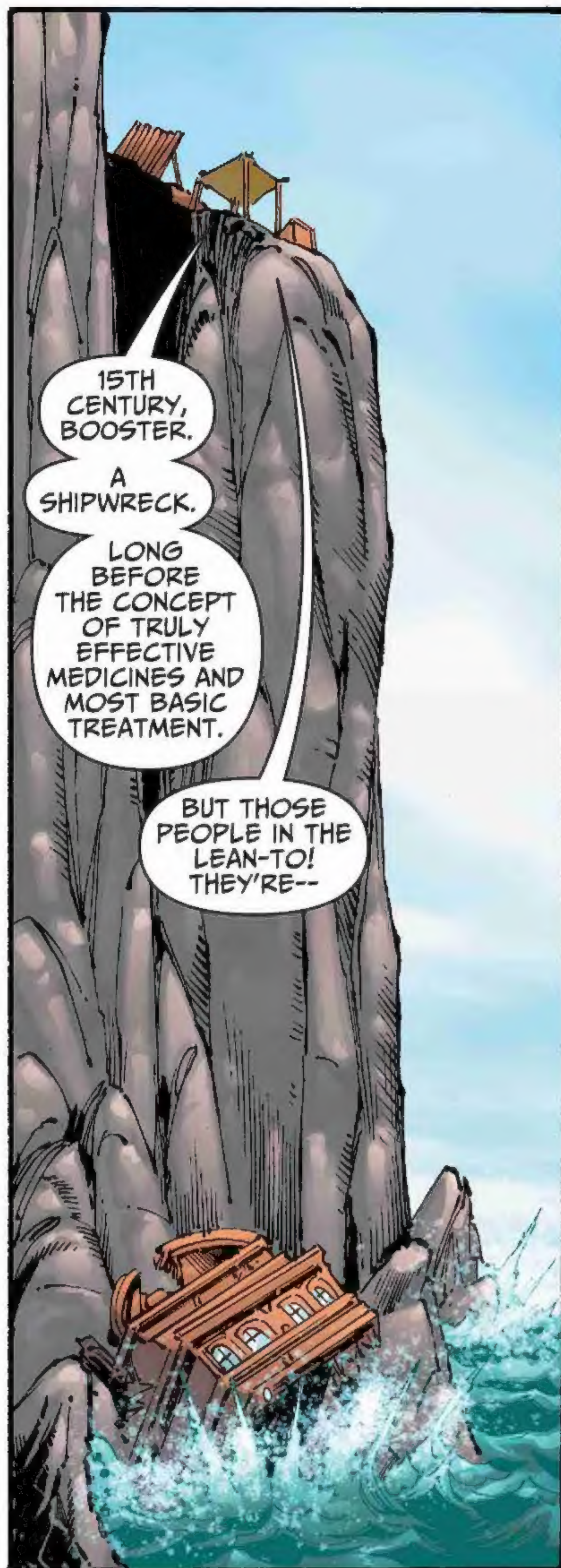
BUT I HAD TO BRING SUPERMAN.

NOT TO MENTION GREEN LANTERN. PROTECTOR OF THE GALAXIES.

AND BOOSTER GOLD. WHO, AT THIS YOUNG AGE, HAS NO IDEA OF THE FUTURE THAT AWAITS HIM--

--OR WHY HE'S SO IMPORTANT TO ME.

GOOD GOD, RIP. WHERE-- WHEN HAVE YOU BROUGHT US?



15TH
CENTURY,
BOOSTER.

A
SHIPWRECK.

LONG
BEFORE
THE CONCEPT
OF TRULY
EFFECTIVE
MEDICINES AND
MOST BASIC
TREATMENT.

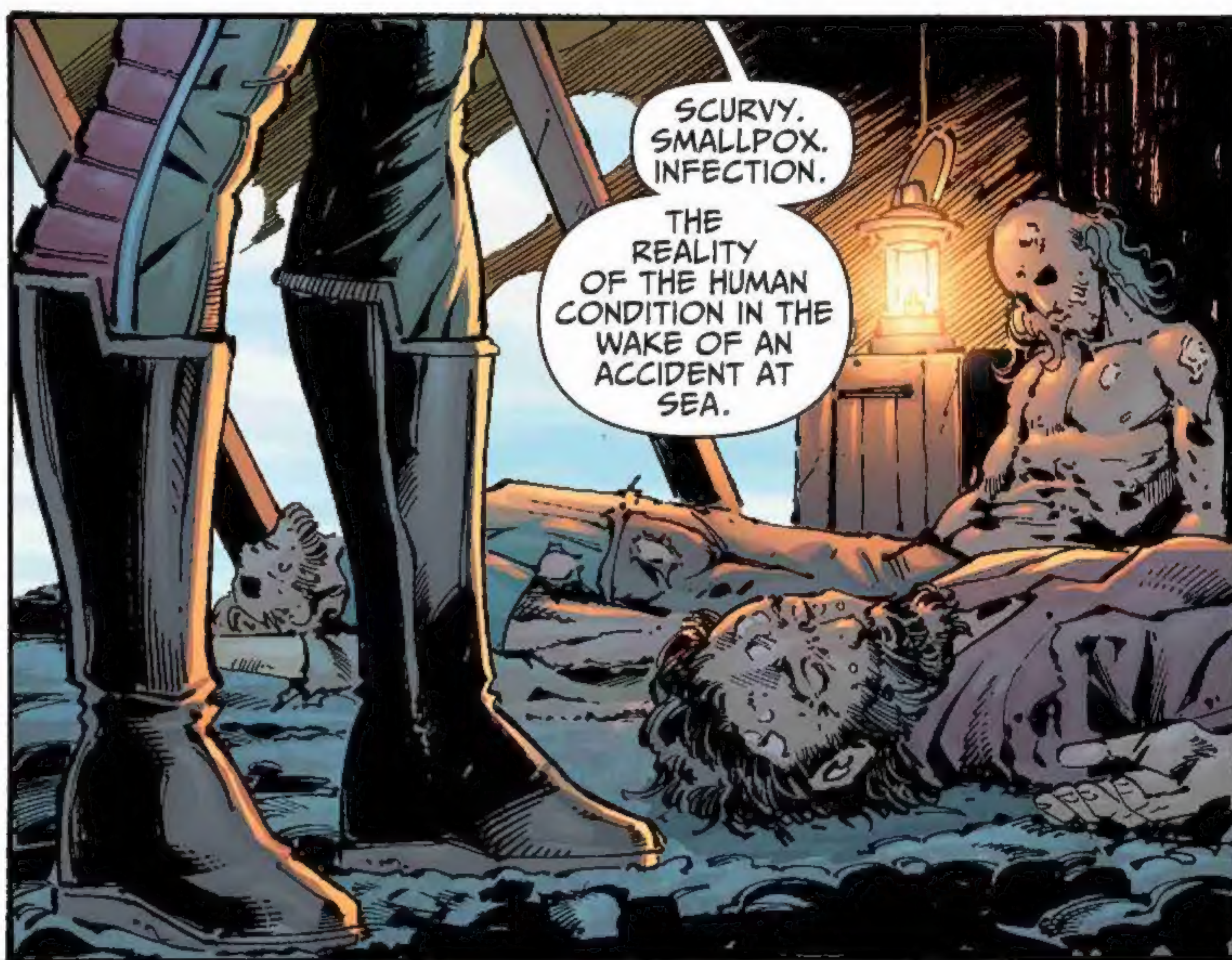
BUT THOSE
PEOPLE IN THE
LEAN-TO!
THEY'RE--



I HAVEN'T SEEN
THEM YET. BUT I
HAVE A PRETTY GOOD
IDEA WHAT'S
WRONG.

I'LL TAKE
A LOOK.

IT'S AWFUL.
THERE MUST BE
SOMETHING WE
CAN DO.



SCURVY.
SMALLPOX.
INFECTION.

THE
REALITY
OF THE HUMAN
CONDITION IN THE
WAKE OF AN
ACCIDENT AT
SEA.



SO WE'LL FLY
THEM SOMEWHERE
SAFE. OR MAYBE YOU
EVEN HAVE SOME
PENICILLIN IN
THAT BELT OF
YOURS.

NO. WE DO
NOTHING.

WE CAN'T
IGNORE THIS,
HUNTER.



THIS ISN'T A JAUNT TO THE
SMALLVILLE CANDY STORE,
SUPERMAN! WE ARE IN THE
PAST AND THAT MEANS
WE DON'T CHANGE
ANYTHING!

IT ALSO
MEANS THAT
YOU'LL DO AS
I SAY!

SMALLVILLE?
HOW--?

PULLING
RANK ON
SUPERMAN?
BIG COJONES,
RIP.

THE END OF TIME.

FLASH

WELL?
ARE YOU
THERE?

YES.

BUT
GIVEN
WHAT I'M
SEEING--

--I
ALMOST WISH
I WASN'T.



MEANING?

MEANING IT'S
WORSE THAN I
THOUGHT.

VANISHING
POINT IS
DESTROYED.



HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

THIS IS THE END OF TIME ITSELF.

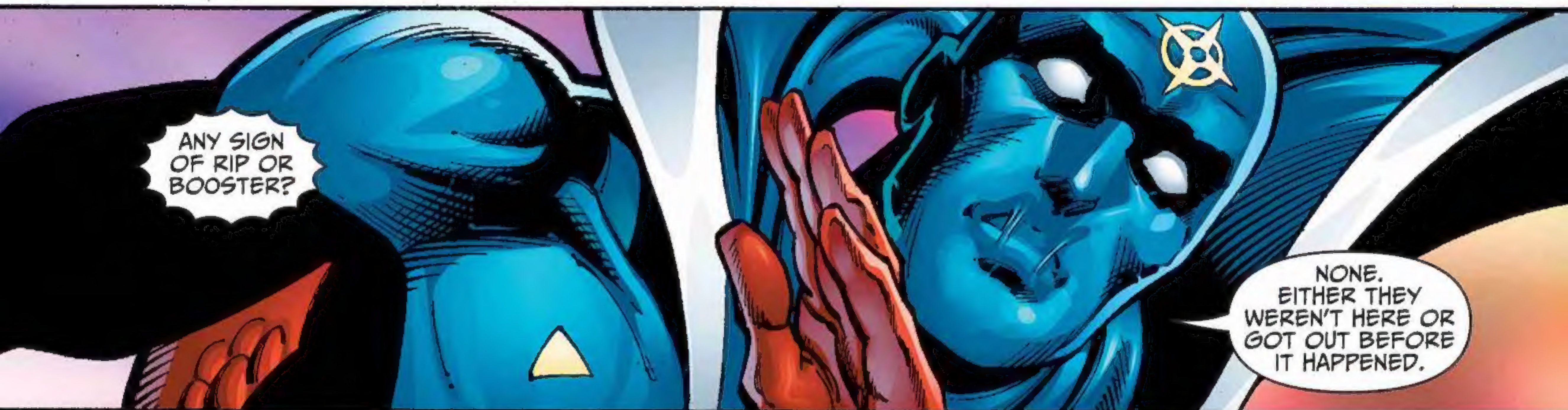
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.



ENTROPY?

PERHAPS.

PERHAPS SOMETHING MORE.



ANY SIGN OF RIP OR BOOSTER?

NONE. EITHER THEY WEREN'T HERE OR GOT OUT BEFORE IT HAPPENED.



WHAT ABOUT THE TIME SPHERE?

GONE.

RIP MAY HAVE IT. OR HE MAY HAVE ESCAPED ANOTHER WAY.



THESE DISRUPTIONS... THE DISCREPANCIES IN THE TIME STREAM... COULD HE BE OFF INVESTIGATING THEM?

POSSIBLY. OR, EVEN WORSE... HE MIGHT BE THE CAUSE.

WHAT NOW?

ARIZONA. 21ST CENTURY.

I CAN'T AGREE, HUNTER. BUT LEAVING THOSE MEN TO DIE GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING I STAND FOR.

THINGS LIKE THIS, WELL... YOU HAVE TO PUT IT IN THE PROPER CONTEXT.

DON'T THINK OF THEM AS DYING. THINK OF THEM AS HAVING BEEN DEAD FOR 500 YEARS.

THAT'S A HARD LEAP TO MAKE.

CAN'T WE AT LEAST FIND THEM SOME FOOD? MAYBE EVEN CITRUS?



NOT THAT THE RIPSTER NEEDS DEFENDING--

--BUT YOU GUYS MUST REALIZE THAT WHAT HE'S SAYING MAKES SENSE.

IF THOSE GUYS ARE DESTINED TO DIE AND WE INTERVENE-- WHO KNOWS HOW HISTORY MIGHT BE ALTERED?

BELIEVE ME, SUPERMAN. I'D LIKE TO HELP THEM TOO.

BOOSTER'S RIGHT. MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE PAST IS OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE.

BUT--!

THERE IS NO "BUT" ALLOWED IN THIS EQUATION. WE ADHERE TO THAT STANDARD.

AND OUR SECOND OBJECTIVE--

--IS FINDING BRUCE WAYNE.





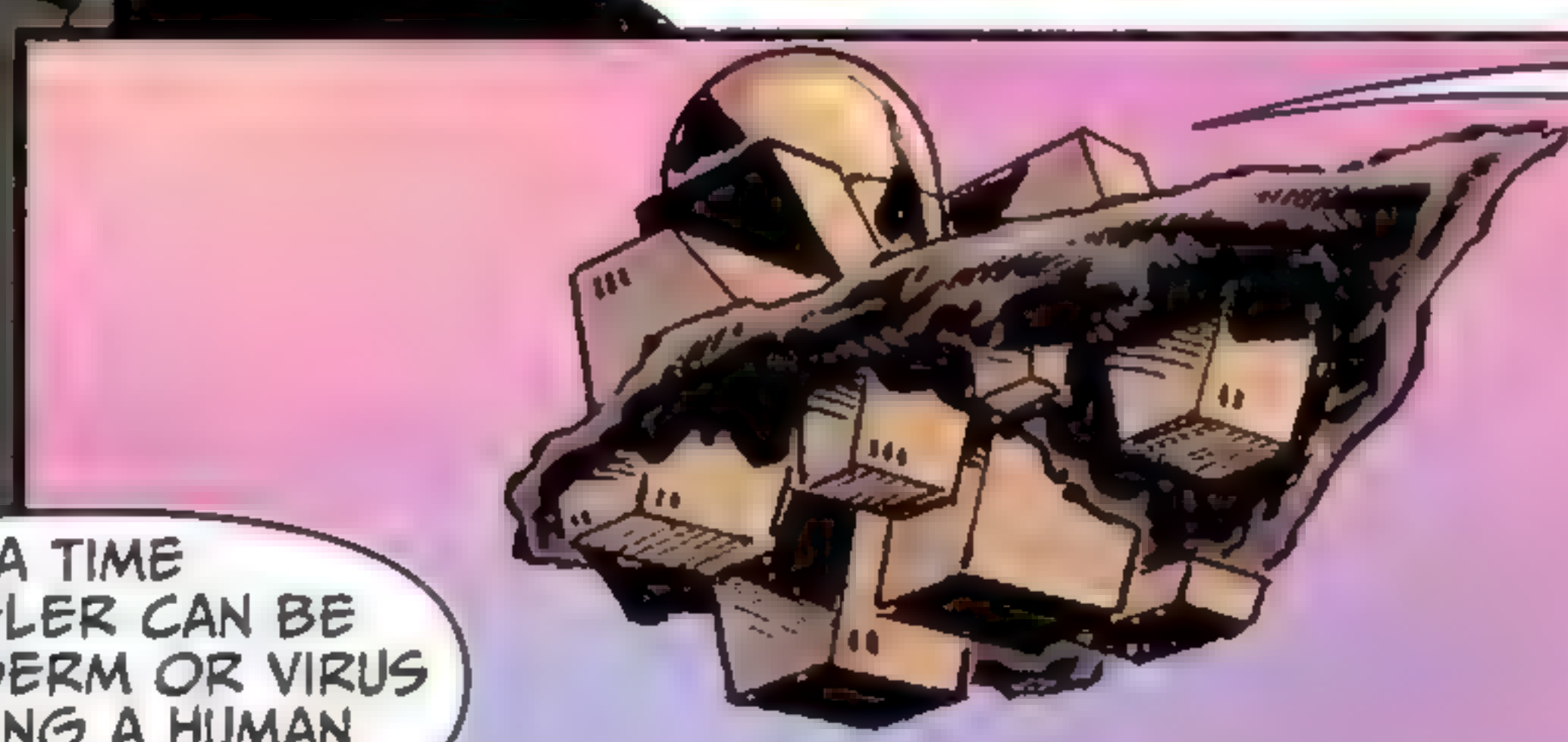
NOT SO LONG AGO, TIME TRAVEL WAS DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE, MUCH LESS ACHIEVE.



"RECENTLY, IT'S BECOME MORE COMMON. TOO COMMON. WITH NO SIGN MORE DISTURBING THAN MY MOST RECENT DISCOVERY."

TROUBLE, DR. HUNTER?

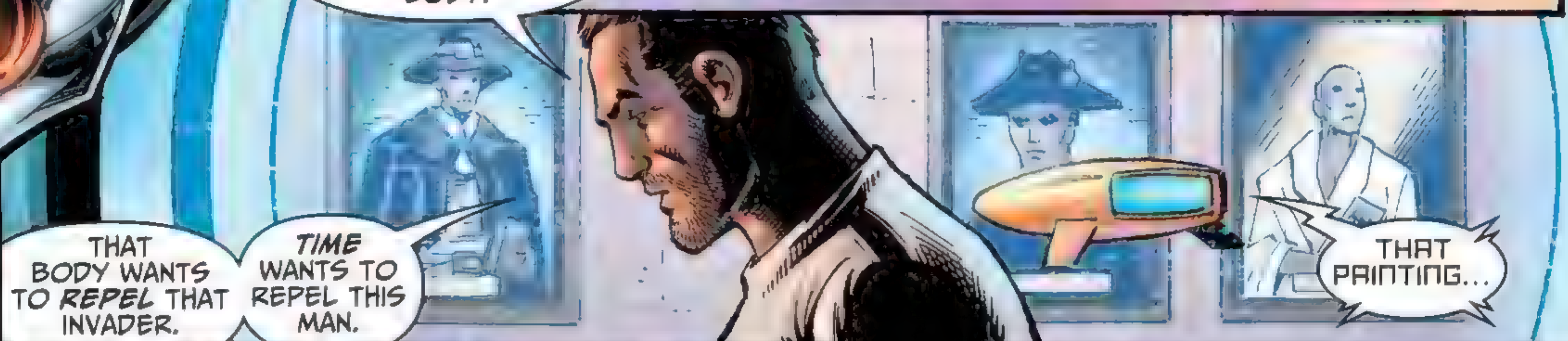
THAT BAT, ETCHED IN SEVERAL PLACES, LONG BEFORE THE DAWN OF CIVILIZATION, SKEETS.



IF IT MEANS WHAT I THINK IT DOES, THE CONSEQUENCES COULD BE CATASTROPHIC.

THE RESULT OF A MAN THROWN INTO A TIME NOT HIS OWN.

A TIME TRAVELER CAN BE LIKE A GERM OR VIRUS INVADING A HUMAN BODY.



THAT BODY WANTS TO REPEL THAT INVADER.

TIME WANTS TO REPEL THIS MAN.

THAT PRINTING...



MORDECAI WAYNE. ANCESTOR OF BRUCE WAYNE.

THE RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN HIM AND BRUCE IS STRIKING. A COINCIDENCE, PERHAPS.

MORDECAI Wayne



BUT VIEWING MORDECAI DIRECTLY IN THE PAST SHOWS IT TO BE FAR MORE.

THEY ARE IDENTICAL.



YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING IN
PARTICULAR?

LET'S
GO BACK
AND LOOK AT
THE FIRST
PAINTING OF
THE BAT.

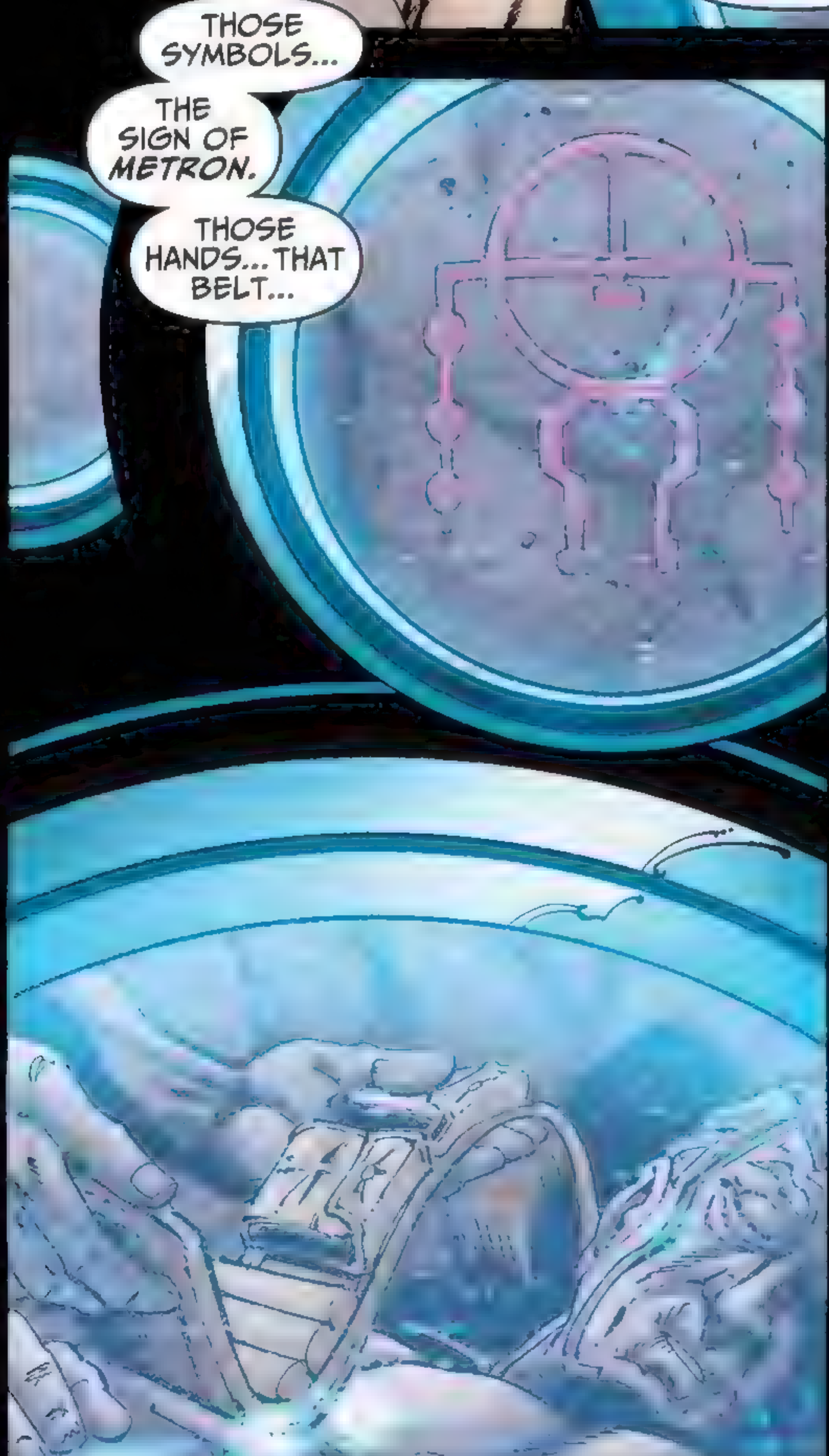


FORTUNATELY,
FROM VANISHING
POINT, WE CAN SEE
THE ACTUAL
EVENT.



THAT OLD
MAN. I MET HIM
IN HIS YOUNGER
YEARS.

NOTABLE.
INTELLIGENT.
THEY CALLED
HIM ANTHRO.



THOSE
SYMBOLS...

THE
SIGN OF
METRON.

THOSE
HANDS... THAT
BELT...



WAYNE.
CAST
FAR, FAR
BACK IN
TIME.

WHILE
THE WORLD
THOUGHT HIM
DEAD--KILLED BY
DARKSEID.

WHY WOULD THE GODS HAVE INTERFERED THAT WAY?

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

YO, RIPSTER! WHO'S THE NEW BODYGUARD?

NOT A BODYGUARD, BOOSTER.

AN ASSISTANT. THE ARCHIVIST. I CAN'T KEEP TRACK OF ALL THIS ON MY OWN.

LOOKS MORE LIKE A GIANT HAIRBALL HORKED UP BY POWER GIRL'S CAT.

YUK.

DEALING WITH ANOTHER ANOMALY?

MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.

THIS IS A NEW... WRINKLE.

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ANOMALY AND WHAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE.

WE'LL RECRUIT SOME HELP AND INVESTIGATE.

YOU WANT HELP?

FRIENDS OF THE MAN WE'RE HUNTING. IF I DON'T BRING THEM ON BOARD THEY'LL TRY TO DO IT ON THEIR OWN AND I CAN'T HAVE THAT.

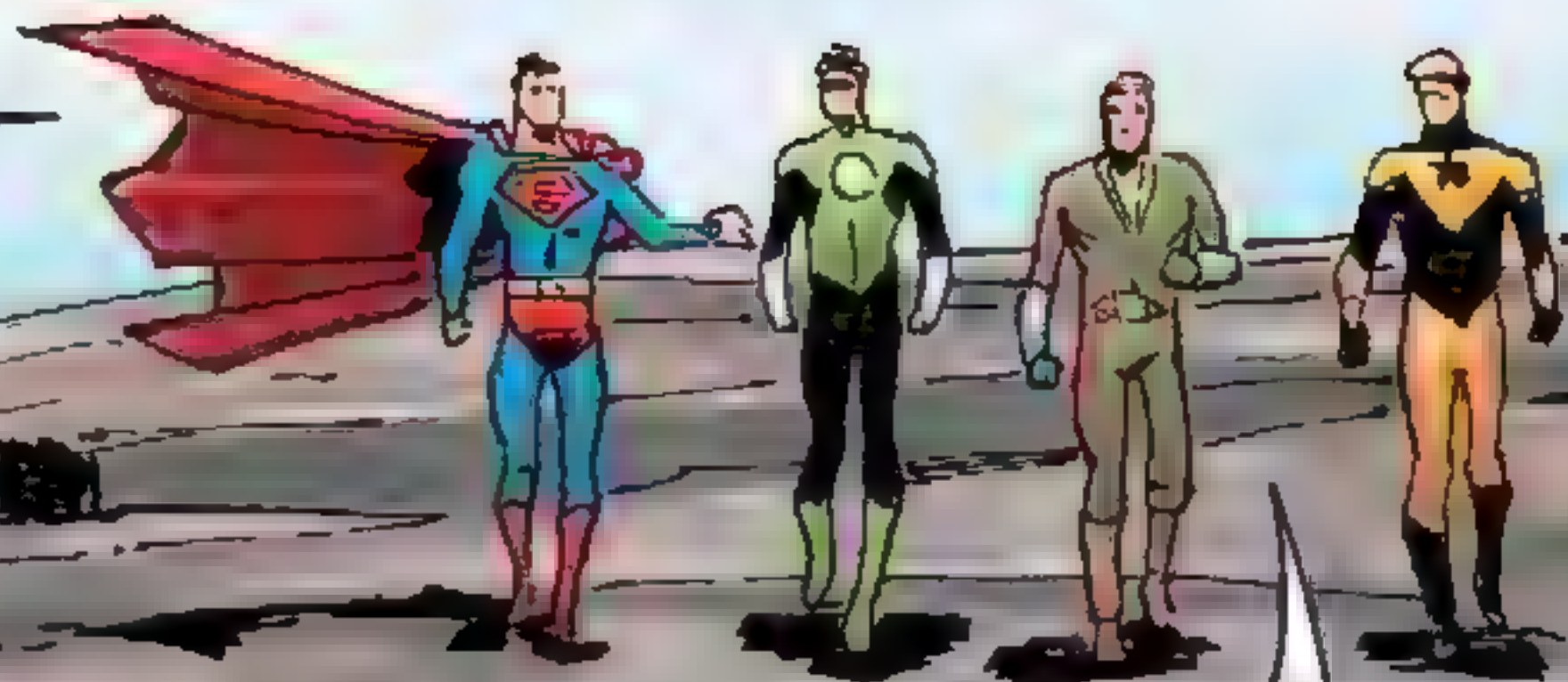
WHOA. YOU'RE REALLY STUMPED BY THIS, AREN'T YOU?

THIS'D BE A HUGE MOMENT IN HISTORY!

IF WE WEREN'T AT THE END OF TIME WHERE THERE'S NO HISTORY TO MAKE, OF COURSE.

WHICH IS WHY WE'RE
IN THE PAST--TRYING
TO PICK UP THE TRAIL
OF BRUCE WAYNE

I'M CURIOUS,
HUNTER. IF YOU'RE
TRULY A MASTER OF
TIME, WHY CAN'T YOU
FIND BRUCE?



TRYING TO FIND ONE PERSON
WHO'S CHAOTICALLY BOUNCING THROUGH TIME
IS LIKE TRYING TO FIND ONE PARTICULAR GRAIN
OF SAND ON THE FLOOR OF THE ATLANTIC.



WHY DON'T
WE GO BACK TO
THE MOMENT WHEN
WE THOUGHT DARKSEID
KILLED BATMAN AND
STOP IT FROM
HAPPENING?

HEY, I THREW
THAT OUT AS AN IDEA
A FEW MONTHS AGO AND
IT GOT SHOT DOWN. IT
WAS SUPPOSED
TO HAPPEN.



SO WHO
APPOINTED
HUNTER THE
GOD OF
TIME?

NEAR AS
I CAN TELL,
HE DID.

HE'S A
MYSTERY.
RIP HUNTER
ISN'T EVEN
HIS REAL
NAME.

WHY THE
ALIAS?



WITHOUT IT HIS ENEMIES
COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND
KILL HIM AS AN INFANT. OR
EVEN KILL HIS MOTHER OR
FATHER AS INFANTS.

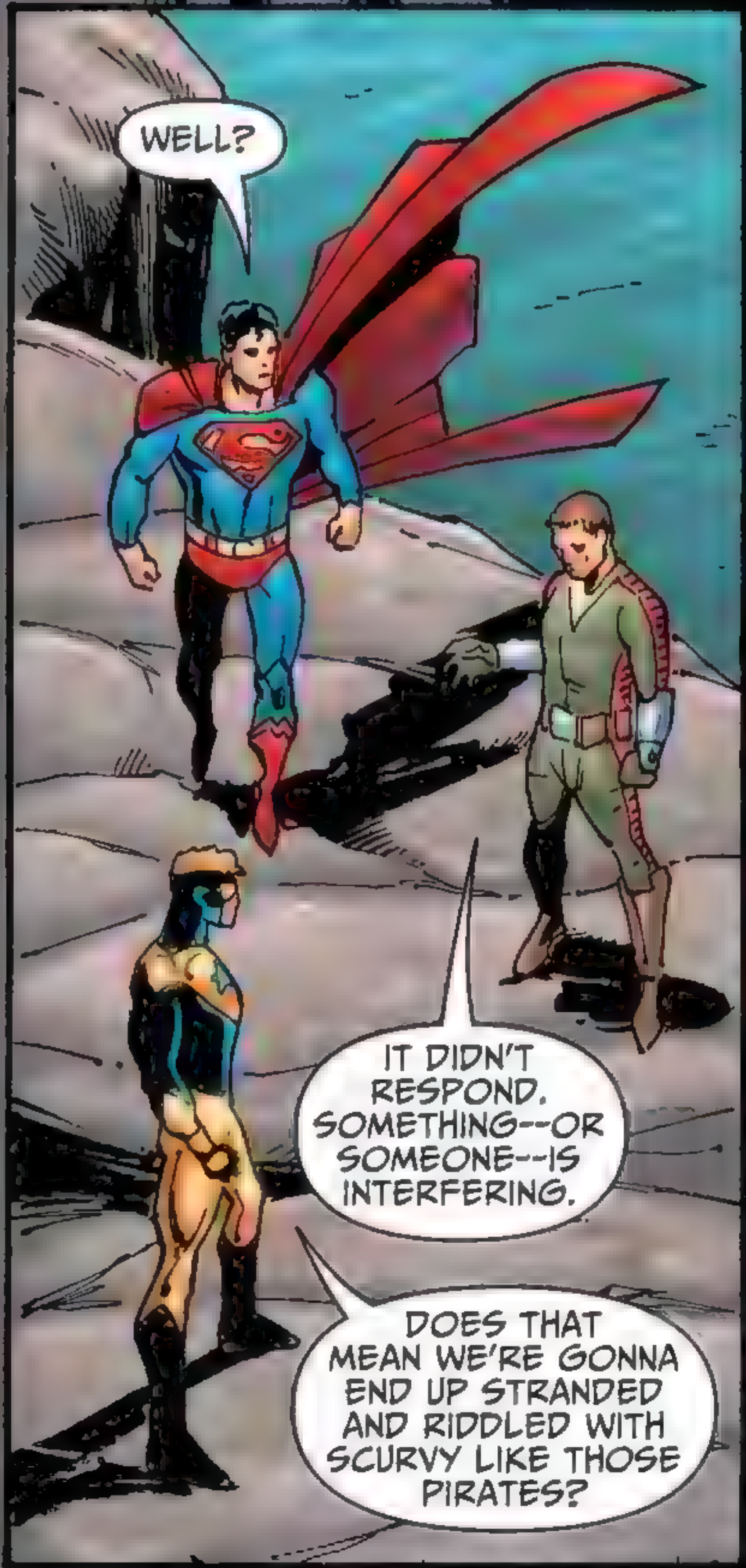
YOU
HAVE YOUR
SECRETS, HE
HAS HIS.



ARE YOU
EVEN NATIVE TO
OUR ERA?

WE LOST THE
TIME SPHERE WHEN
THE ARCHIVIST
DESTROYED IT.

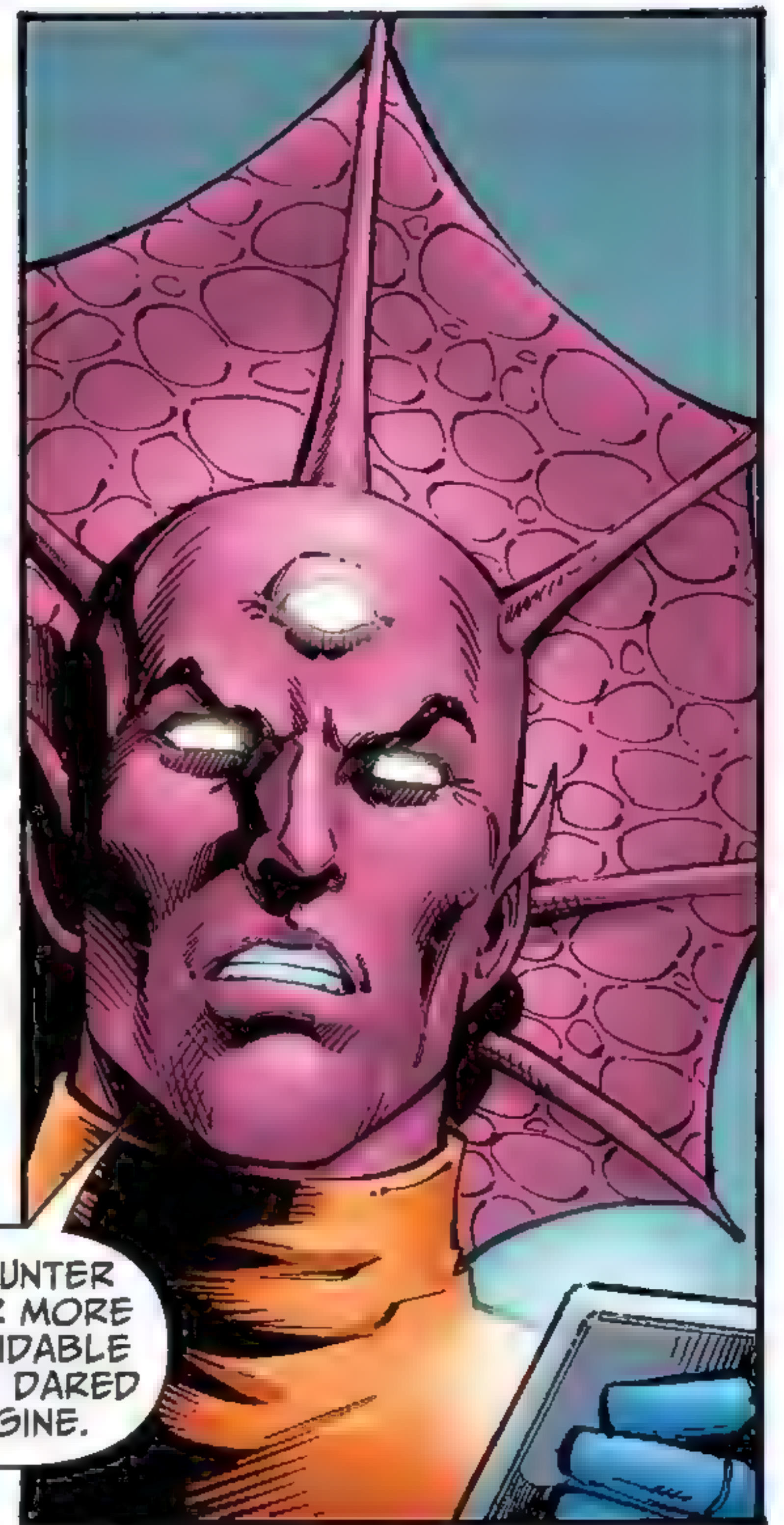
BUT I CAN
TRIGGER MY
TIME PLATFORM
IN ARIZONA TO
PULL US
BACK.



WELL?

IT DIDN'T
RESPOND.
SOMETHING--OR
SOMEONE--IS
INTERFERING.

DOES THAT
MEAN WE'RE GONNA
END UP STRANDED
AND RIDDLED WITH
SCURVY LIKE THOSE
PIRATES?





IS THAT
WHAT I THINK
IT IS?

HUNTER'S TIME
PLATFORM.

IT GIVES HIM
TOTAL ACCESS
TO THE ENTIRETY
OF TIME.

DESTROY IT AND
HUNTER HAS NO WAY
OF RETURNING.



I SAY WE
TRASH IT.

AND WHEN
WE'RE DONE
WITH THAT--

--WE TURN
THIS ENTIRE
COMPLEX
TO ASH.



I DON'T
THINK SO.

WHO--?!



MICHELLE
CARTER.

BETTER
KNOWN AS
GOLDSTAR.



GOLD'S SISTER? I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS PLACE WAS DESERTED!

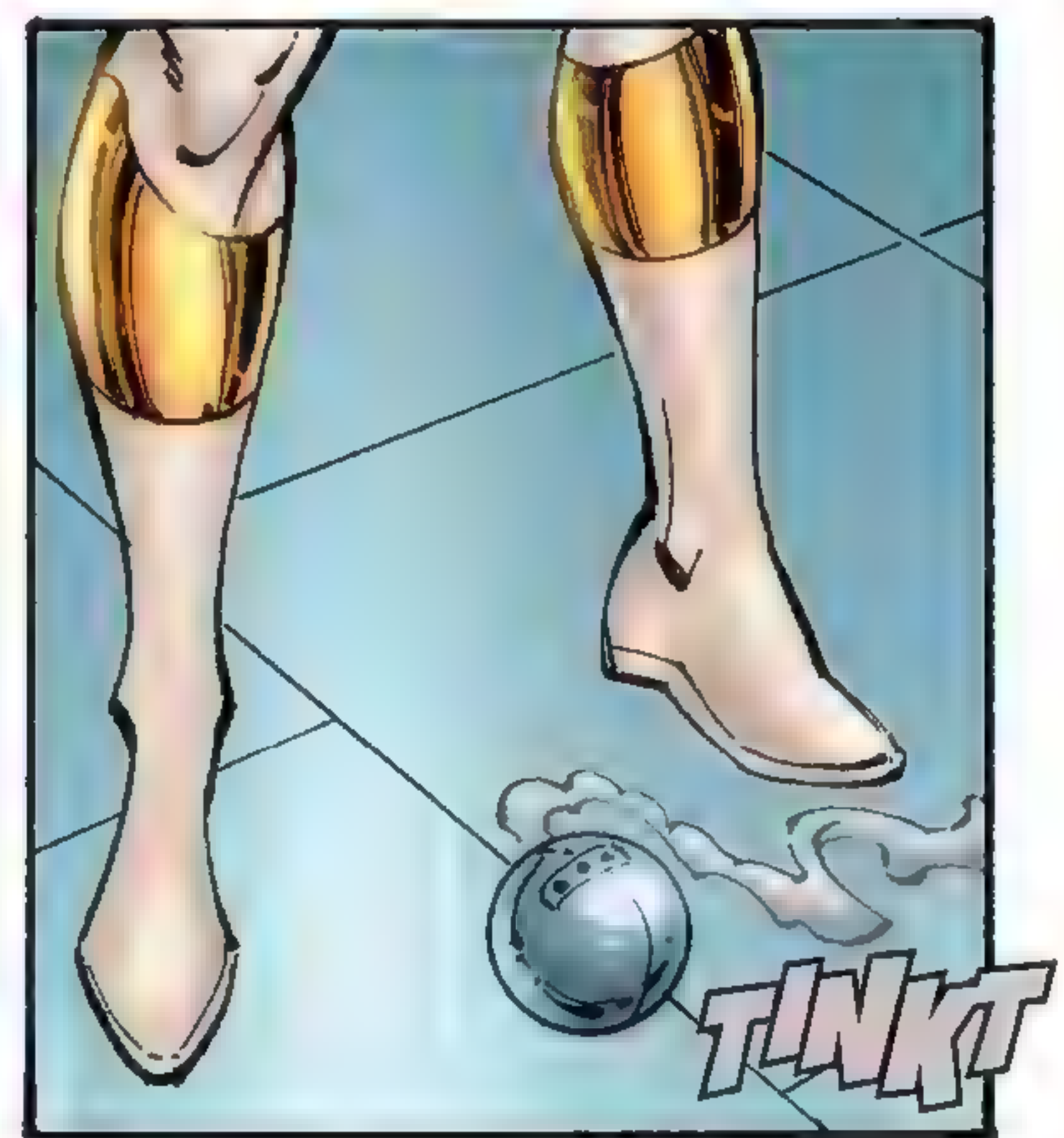
HUNTER MUST HAVE CHAMBERS THAT ARE IMPERVIOUS TO MY SCANNERS.

WE HAVE ALL SORTS OF TRICKS TO HANDLE CREEPS LIKE YOU.

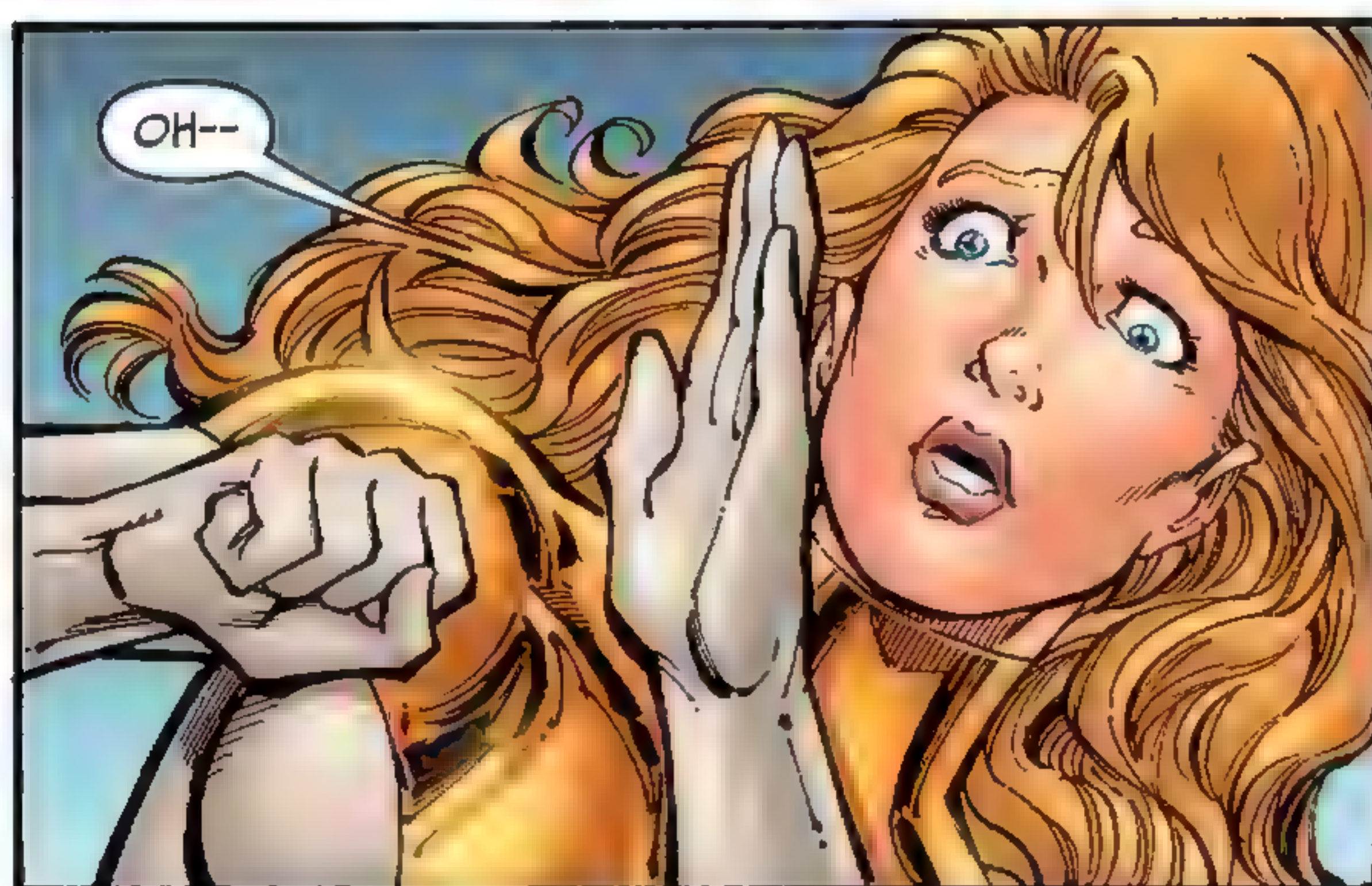
THOSE MAGNETIC POWERS OF YOURS ARE NICE, SWEET CHEEKS.



BUT WE HAVE A FEW TRICKS OF OUR OWN.



TINKT

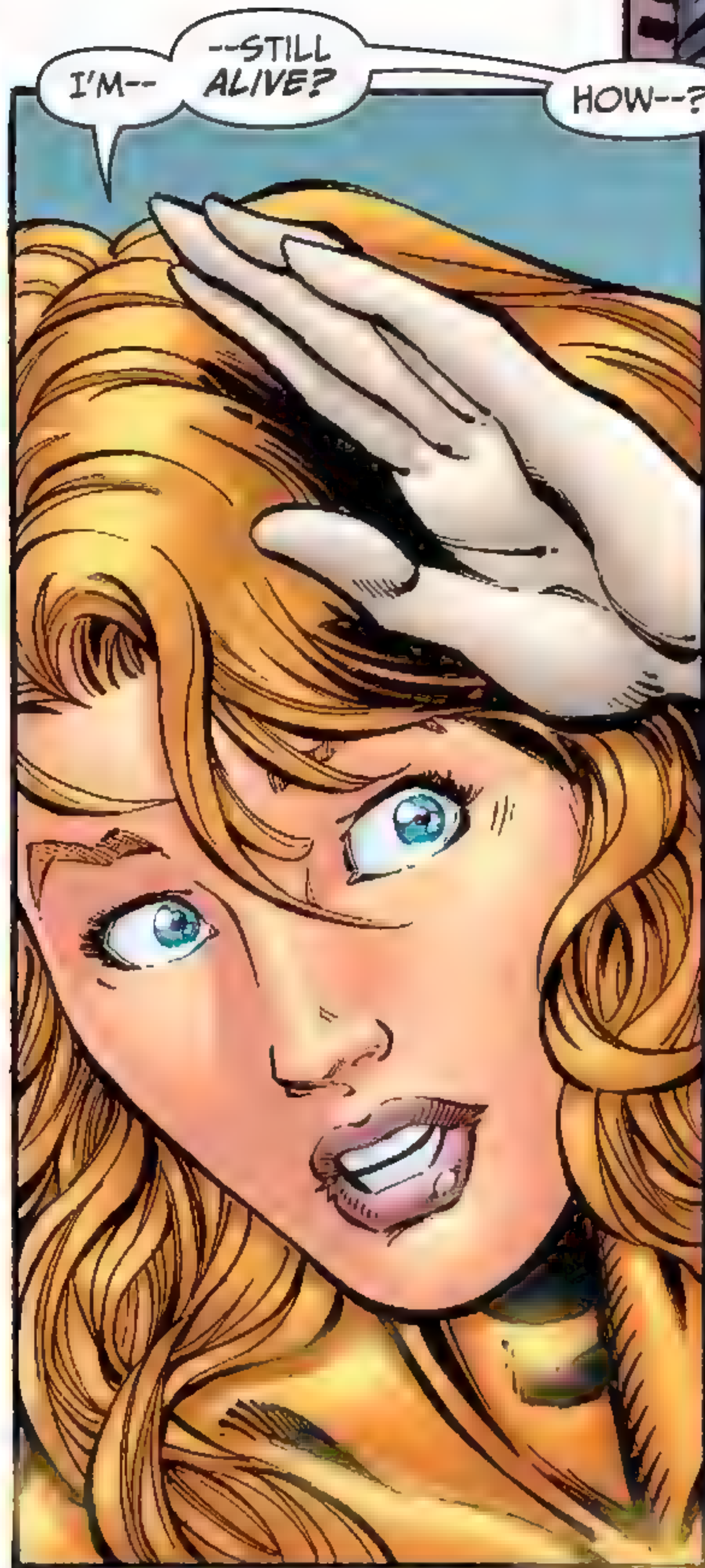


OH--



--NO.

SOOOOOSH

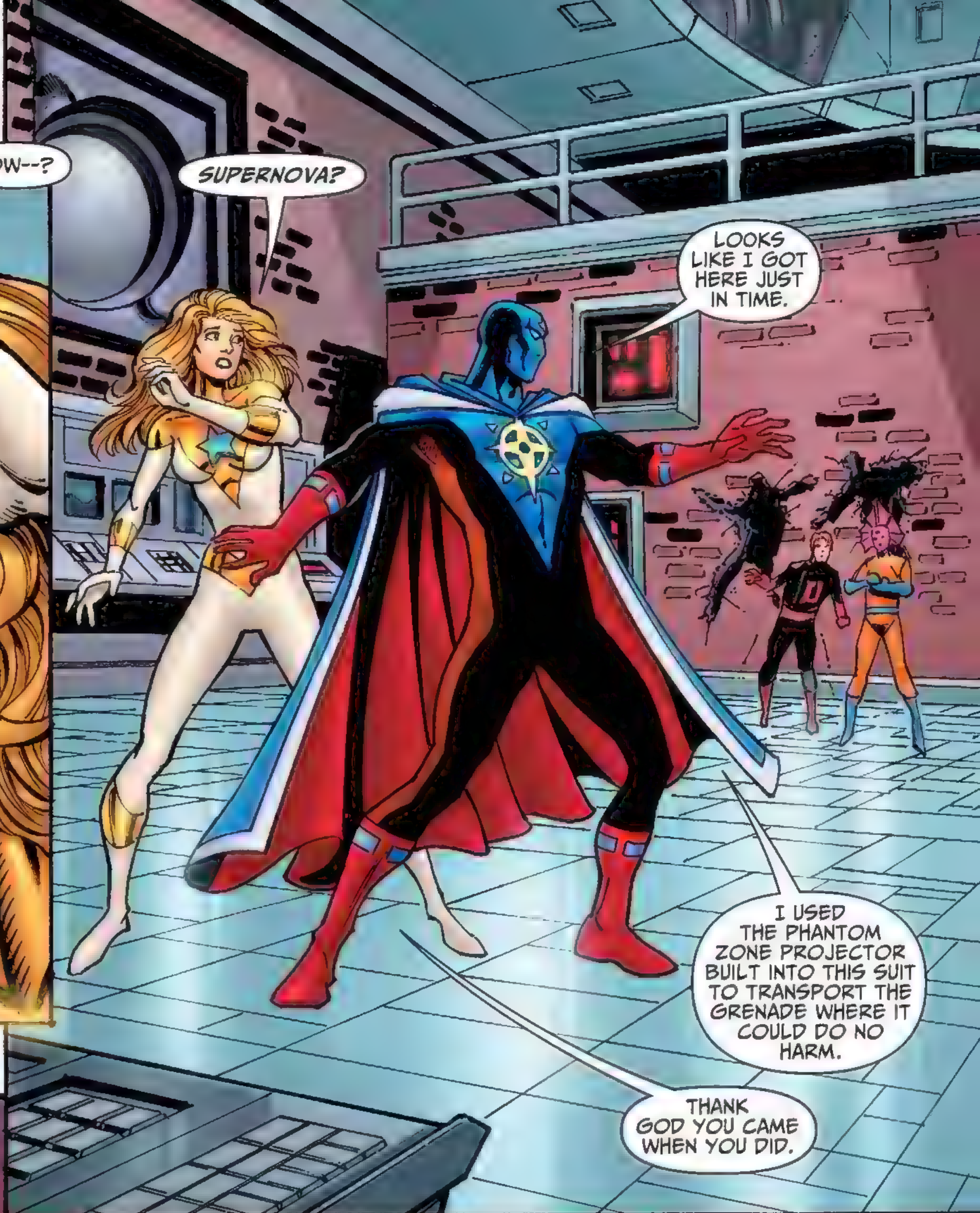


I'M--

--STILL
ALIVE?

HOW--?

SUPERNOVA?



LOOKS
LIKE I GOT
HERE JUST
IN TIME.

I USED
THE PHANTOM
ZONE PROJECTOR
BUILT INTO THIS SUIT
TO TRANSPORT THE
GRENADE WHERE IT
COULD DO NO
HARM.

THANK
GOD YOU CAME
WHEN YOU DID.



SUPERNOVA?

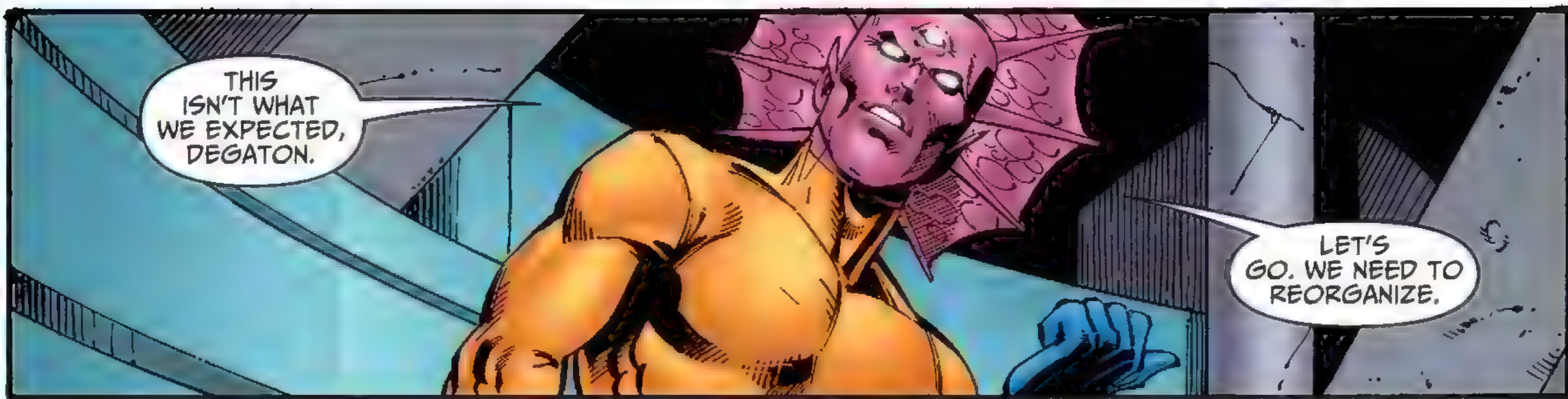


YOU...

...YOU
TIME
STEALERS
ARE THE ONES
WHO DESTROYED
VANISHING
POINT.

DANIEL
CARTER. GOLD'S
IDIOT ANCESTOR
FROM THIS ERA.
ONLY SOMEONE
WITH CARTER D.N.A.
CAN ACTIVATE
THE SUIT'S
POWERS.

VANISHING
POINT IS GONE?
NO WONDER WE
COULDN'T GET
TO IT!





WHY ARE WE HEADING FOR THESE MOUNTAINS?

SINCE I CAN'T ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH MY TIME PLATFORM I NEED A PLACE TO SET UP MY BEACON.

YOU CAN ACTUALLY COMMUNICATE THROUGH TIME?



CARRYING ON A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH SOMEONE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC WOULD HAVE SEEMED UNIMAGINABLE TO THOSE PIRATES WE SAW, GREEN LANTERN.

I HAVE ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT THAT MAKES THE UNIMAGINABLE QUITE REAL.



SINCE SOME TYPE OF INTERFERENCE IS BLOCKING US FROM COMMUNICATING, I NEED THIS MOUNTAIN'S HEIGHT TO BEAT IT.

AND IF THIS DOESN'T WORK?



IT WILL.

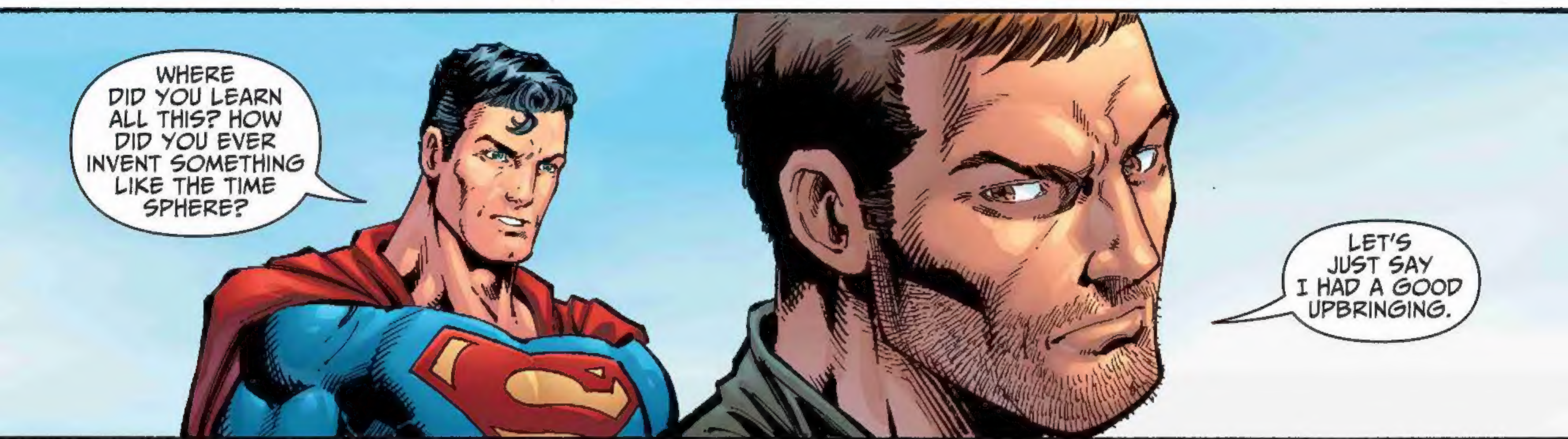
THIS STILL SEEMS "OUT THERE" TO ME.



SO SAYS THE MAN WITH A RING CAPABLE OF CREATING ANYTHING FROM A PAPER CLIP TO A SUBMARINE.

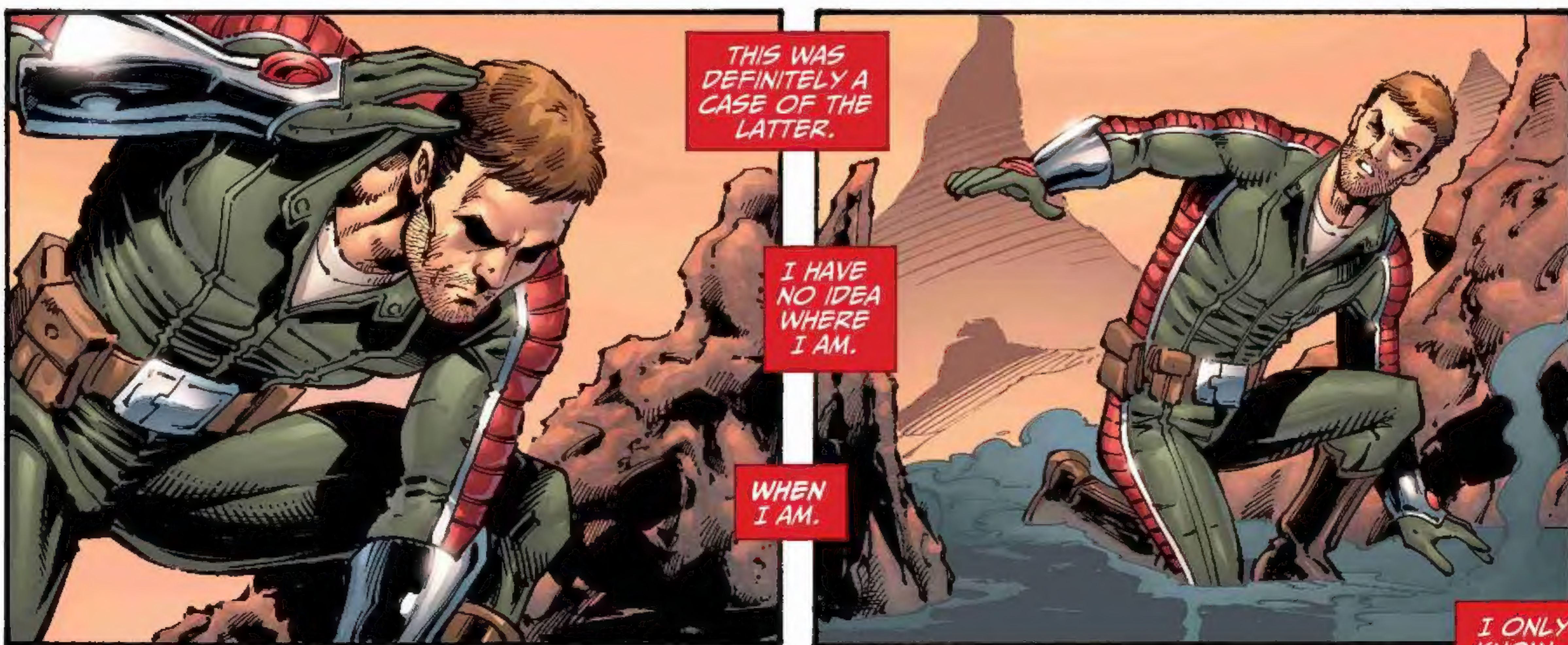
TOUCHÉ.

THERE. THAT SHOULD DO IT.





THERE'S A DIFFERENCE
CONTROLLING YOUR TRIP THROUGH
TIME AND BEING THROWN
RANDOMLY THROUGH IT.



NEXT TIME:

CLAW

THE UNCONQUERED!

--THIS IS
BAD.

